

INCREASED FISHING EFFICIENCY

Side setting may allow you to get more baited hooks set to catch more tuna and swordfish than conventional stern setting or using blue-dyed bait.

When, side setting:

- * Birds take fewer baits from hooks
- * The hook setting rate is slightly faster, so you may be able to get more gear in the water.

BIRD AVOIDANCE EFFECTIVENESS

Of the numerous seabird avoidance methods that have undergone scientific assessment, side setting is one of the most effective.

A short-term study conducted in Hawai'i in 2003 found that side setting nearly eliminated bird capture compared to using blue-dyed bait or an underwater setting chute.



WHO'S DOING IT

The following vessels in the Hawai'i longline fleet have voluntarily switched from conventional stern setting to side setting as of January 2005.

We appreciate their input on the practicality of side setting as a seabird mitigation method.

F/V Amanda K,
Captain Richard Robertson
F/V Black Magic, Captain Brian Aasted
F/V Caroleigh, Captain Craig Yeakel
F/V Cumberland Trail,
Captain Leland Oldenburg
F/V Excalibur, Captain Jack Sanford
F/V Kaimi, Captain Sioni Kelly
F/V Katy Mary, Captain Jerry Ray
F/V Tucana, Captain Roger Weaver
F/V Debbie Sue, Captain David Fee
F/V Marie M, Captain John Myking



Let's Avoid Catching Seabirds in Our Fisheries



Side Setting for Longliners
as a Practical Option



HOW TO SIDE SET

Side setting means setting longline gear off the side of the vessel rather than off the conventional position at the stern. Baited hooks are set close to the side of the vessel where seabirds, such as albatrosses, can't pursue them. Ideally, by the time the stern passes, the hook has sunk beyond the reach of seabirds.

SIDE SETTING TIPS:

- * Use 60 g weighted swivels within 1 m of the hook.
- * Set as far forward as possible to maximize the time for hooks to sink beyond the reach of seabirds. This also makes it easier to deal with tote tangles and badly thrown baits. The few vessels that may be prevented from setting far forward need to mount their main line shooter at least 0.5 m from the stern corner to allow space for a bird curtain.
- * Throw baited hooks as far forward and as close to the hull as possible.
- * Clip branch lines to the main line the moment that the vessel passes the baited hook. Tension in the branch line is minimized and keeps the baited hook from being pulled towards the surface where birds can reach it.
- * Use a bird curtain between the setting position and the stern to prevent birds from establishing a flight path where hooks are set.